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~ Mac Mountain Lion OS! ~ People Are Talking!   ~ Businesses Top Bids!
~ Playing 'Civ 2" 10 Yrs ~ ICANN Discovers Gaffe! ~ US Ignite Launched!
~ Expanding Web Domains! ~ Diablo III Tops in May ~ Malware via Hotels!

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      ~ Visual Studio Express! ~                      ~ Atheist Comments!

                     -* Apple Declares Ping A Failure *-
                   -* Win 8 Tablets Cost More Than iPads? *-
                  -* Facebook Blames Nasdaq Glitches for Decline! *-




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->From the Editor's Keyboard              "Saying it like it is!"
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Well, things have still been hectic over the past week, and more. We
have my in-laws moved into their new home; and they're beginning to get
settled in to their new digs. They have a long way to go to get back "to
normal", but eventually things will get even better.

The U.S. presidential campaign is in full swing, and the gloves are still
off. I'm guessing (big surprise!) that things will continue to get hotter
and hotter between the two candidates. Will Hollywood save the president
this time around? We'll see.

Until next time...

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->In This Week's Gaming Section   - 'Diablo III' Tops in May!
  """"""""""""""""""""""""""""""""    Playing Civilization 2 for Decade!




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->A-ONE's Game Console Industry News   -  The Latest Gaming News!
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                     'Diablo III' Tops List of Video Game Sales in May

U.S. retail sales of video-game hardware, software and accessories fell
for a sixth consecutive month in May.

According to market tracker NPD Group, sales fell 28 percent from a year
earlier to $517 million. The study tracks sales of new physical products
about 50 percent to 60 percent of the total spending. Excluded are sales

of used games and rentals as well as digital and social-network spending.

Sales of console and portable software   the video games themselves   fell 32 percent from a year earlier to $255 million, while sales of hardware fell 39 percent to $139 million. That was offset partly by a 7 percent increase in sales of accessories, to $122 million.

NPD also listed the top-selling games in May and said it was the first time since July 2010 that a PC-only game was a top seller for the month.

The top 10 are:

1. "Diablo III" for PCs, Activision Blizzard Inc.

2. "Max Payne 3" for Xbox 360, PlayStation 3, PCs, Take-Two Interactive Software Inc.

3. "Tom Clancy's Ghost Recon: Future Soldier" for Xbox 360, PlayStation 3, Ubisoft Group.

4. "Prototype 2" for Xbox 360, PlayStation 3, Activision Blizzard Inc.

5. "NBA 2K12" for Xbox 360, PlayStation 3, Wii, PlayStation Portable, PlayStation 2, PCs, Take-Two Interactive Software Inc.

6. "Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 3" for Xbox 360, PlayStation 3, Wii, PCs, Activision Blizzard Inc.

7. "Sniper Elite V2" for Xbox 360, PlayStation 3, 505 Games

8. "Battlefield 3" for Xbox 360, PlayStation 3, PCs, Electronic Arts Inc.

9. "Dragon's Dogma" for Xbox 360, PlayStation 3, Capcom USA

10. "Just Dance 3" for Xbox 360, PlayStation 3, Wii, Ubisoft Group.

Man Plays The Same Game of Civilization II for 10 Years

Think you spend too much time playing the same video game?

Try playing it for a decade.

In an impressive display of dedication, Reddit user 'Lycerius' claims he has been playing a single game of Sid Meier's classic world-ruling strategy game Civilization II for nearly 10 years now. But sadly, the future world he's dealing with is "a hellish nightmare of suffering and devastation."

The year is 3991 A.D. Multiple nuclear wars have decimated the planet, melting ice caps and leaving the world useless for farming. The only land left for the three remaining superpowers to lord over are mountain tops.

Those superpowers   the Celts, Vikings and Americans   have been waging war for 1,700 in-game years. And it doesn't look to be ending anytime soon.

"Peace seems to be impossible," writes Lycerius. "Every time a cease fire is signed, the Vikings will surprise attack me [he plays as the Celts] or

the Americans the very next turn, often with nuclear weapons - even when
the U.N forces a peace treaty. So I can only assume that peace will come
only when they're wiped out. It is this that perpetuates the war ad
infinitum."

Roughly 90 percent of the world's population is dead in the game, due to
famine and nuclear fallout. It's not a pretty picture, though it is a
totally fascinating one. But it gives rise to one big question: Who the
heck would play a single game for nearly 10 years?

"I thought that it might be interesting to see just how far into the
future I could get and see what the ramifications would be," he said.

Lycerius doesn't play every single day, instead using the game as a sort
of go-to time-killer when he's got nothing else on his plate. He says that
he wants to rebuild his game world, but he "isn't sure how."

"My goal for the next few years is to try and end the war and thus use the
engineers to clear swamps and fallout so that farming may resume. I want
to rebuild the world. But I'm not sure how. If any of you old Civ II
players have any advice, I'm listening."

The Reddit community has swarmed to action, offering hundreds of
suggestions on ways to not only end the war, but to bring the planet back
to its former glory. It's been such a viral hit, the term 'Civ 2' even made
an appearance as a top trending topic on Twitter.

Lycerius says he's appreciative of the feedback, but suspects it will take
many months, at best, to revive the earth, even after the war is won.

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                        A-ONE's Headline News
                    The Latest in Computer Technology News
                      Compiled by: Dana P. Jacobson

            Facebook Suggests Nasdaq Glitches Led to Decline

Facebook is suggesting that trading problems at the Nasdaq Stock Market
contributed to a sharp drop in the company's stock price after its initial
public offering.

In laying out a defense against dozens of lawsuits from disgruntled
shareholders, Facebook and the banks overseeing the IPO also insist that
nothing about its IPO process was illegal or even out of the ordinary.

The defense came in a court filing in which Facebook and the banks, led by
Morgan Stanley, are seeking to combine the more than 40 federal and state
lawsuits around the country into one federal case in New York.

The highly anticipated IPO was marred by technical glitches that delayed
trading when Facebook went public on May 18.

Facebook said those glitches at Nasdaq hurt its stock for days. Seven of the lawsuits claim that Nasdaq errors created market uncertainty and caused shareholders to lose money. Nasdaq has admitted that there were technical problems. Nasdaq spokesman Joe Christinat declined to comment Friday.

The bulk of the shareholder lawsuits 28   center on Facebook's May 9 disclosure that the number of mobile users it has was growing faster than revenue. The lawsuits claim that analysts at those banks had discussions with Facebook after May 9 and had lowered their forecasts as a result, but disclosed the changes only to a handful of preferred clients.

In its filing late Thursday, Facebook said the lawsuits "ignore that what Facebook and (the banks) allegedly did both followed customary practices and did not violate any rules."

"As is customary," Facebook said, the May 9 filing "did not include any forward-looking projections." In other words, Facebook did not give a revenue or profit forecast in its amended filing, nor did it do so in any other IPO document. Facebook added that federal regulators do not require companies to give earnings or revenue projections in their IPO documents.

Facebook said it wants to bring the lawsuits to New York in part because that's the home to most of the banks involved in the IPO. It's also where many of the events in dispute took place and where Nasdaq is headquartered.

In separate filings with regulators Friday, Facebook released letters it exchanged with the Securities and Exchange Commission in the months leading up to IPO. That's something companies typically do after a confidentiality period ends.

Among other things, federal regulators had wanted to know more about the revenue it gets from mobile devices, its $1 billion deal to buy Instagram and the control CEO Mark Zuckerberg has over the company. Facebook amended its regulatory documents several times before the IPO, but the communications leading to those changes weren't public until now.

On an upbeat note, Facebook's stock gained value for the week for the first time. The stock climbed $1.72, or 6.1 percent, to close at $30.01 on Friday. That's up nearly 11 percent for the week, though it's still down 21 percent from its IPO price of $38.

Also on Friday, Facebook's chief technology officer, Bret Taylor, announced that he is leaving the company to work on a startup. Taylor said on his Facebook profile that he's "sad to be leaving, but I'm excited to be starting a company with my friend Kevin Gibbs." Taylor joined Facebook in 2009 when the company bought FriendFeed, the Internet company where he was working at the time.

How The Internet Will Get New Domain Name Suffixes

On Wednesday, the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers released a list of some 2,000 proposals for new Internet address suffixes, including ".blog," ''.web" and ".gift." They represent corporate brand names, political affiliations, geographic regions and more.

Expanding the number of suffixes, the ".com" part of an Internet address, has been one of ICANN's missions since its creation in 1998 to oversee domain names. ICANN had two test rounds, in 2000 and 2004, when it added ".info," ''.Asia," ''.travel," among others. It's now ready to expand the domain name system more broadly.

For the new round, ICANN began accepting proposals in January. Bidders had to answer 50 questions covering such things as what a proposed suffix will be used for and what kind of financial backing the company or organization has. They had until May 30 to submit the proposal. Each proposal cost $185,000 to submit.

Now that ICANN has announced its list of proposals, there will be months and possibly years of reviews before the suffixes are accepted and available for use.

Here's what happens now:

THE CHALLENGES: The public will have 60 days to comment on the proposals. There's also a seven-month window to file an objection, such as a claim of trademark violation.

THE LOGISTICS: Because of the high number of proposals, ICANN will review them in groups of about 500. There's a lottery-like system to determine which ones get to be considered first. It could take more than a year to get to the final group.

THE REVIEW: ICANN will review each proposal to make sure that its financial plan is sound and that contingencies exist in case a company goes out of business. Bidders also must pass criminal background checks.

If multiple bidders seek the same suffix, ICANN will hold an auction should competing parties fail to come up with a compromise.

The review is expected to take at least nine months, meaning approval of the first batch won't happen until at least early next year. If there are challenges or other problems, ICANN believes the review could take up to 20 months.

Approvals will be made on a rolling basis, so those that pass review early won't have to wait for the ones that take more time.

THE LAUNCH: Once a suffix gets approved, the winning bidder will have to set up procedures for registering names under that suffix and computers to keep track of them. The bidder might have all that already completed in anticipation of an approval.

The bidder pays an annual fee that starts at $25,000. The suffix gets activated and becomes available for use. All that could take days or months.

Privacy Gaffe Discovered in Internet Address Bids

The organization in charge of introducing new Internet addresses to rival ".com" briefly suspended access to some of the documents on its website after a privacy gaffe.

The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers said it had mistakenly published the postal addresses of some individuals information that was meant to be private. The disclosure was limited to cities and countries in some cases, while full street addresses appeared in others.

The discovery came late Thursday, a day after ICANN revealed nearly 2,000 proposals for new Internet suffixes, including ".joy," ''.barefoot" and ".google." It will be the largest expansion of the Internet address system since its creation in the 1980s.

ICANN posted documents with the proposals to allow the public to comment and raise objections. The documents include bidders' plans for the new names and full contact information for the businesses involved, but they were supposed to list only phone and email information belonging to individuals.

ICANN restored those documents after removing the postal addresses on individuals. It was not immediately clear how long that took; the documents appeared to be inaccessible for no more than a few hours. ICANN did not immediately respond to requests for more information Friday.

This spring, ICANN had to suspend access to its system for letting bidders submit proposals after it discovered technical glitches that exposed some private data. That took more than a month to fix and restore. ICANN also goofed during Wednesday's announcement. It displayed Arabic names left to right rather than right to left, as the language is written.

The latest gaffe provided more fodder for critics of ICANN and the name expansion. Skeptics have questioned ICANN's ability to run the program smoothly in the long run, given that technical problems have cropped up early on.

"If this weren't all so incredibly serious, one could get quite a laugh over the concept of The Gang That Couldn't Shoot Straight being in charge of this process," Lauren Weinstein, co-founder of People For Internet Responsibility, said on his Privacy Forum mailing list.

ICANN officials say the names expansion will permit innovation and increase choice. A new suffix could, for instance, be used to identify sites that have a certain level of security protection. It could be used to create online neighborhoods of businesses affiliated with a geographic area or an industry.

Critics say the names will create confusion among Internet users, while providing little benefit in an era where people often find websites by using a search engine rather than typing in the address.

Businesses Dominate Bids for Internet Suffixes

Amazon.com wants ".joy," Google wants ".love" and L'Oreal wants ".beauty."

Big brands are behind hundreds of proposals for new Internet addresses, including scores for generic terms such as "cruise," ''.kids" and ".tires."

If approved, Amazon could use ".author" in an attempt to dominate online

bookselling, while Google could use ".love" to collect registration fees from its rivals.

Amazon and Google also are vying for ".app" and ".music," while the wine company Gallo Vineyards Inc. wants ".barefoot."

It's all part of the largest expansion of the Internet address system since its creation in the 1980s, a process likely to cause headaches for some companies while creating vast opportunities for others.

The organization in charge of Internet addresses, the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers, announced the proposals for Internet suffixes Wednesday. A suffix is the ".com" part in a domain name.

The bids now go through a review that could take months or years. Up to 1,000 suffixes could be added each year.

There were 1,930 proposals for 1,409 different suffixes. The bulk of proposals that met the May 30 deadline came from North America and Europe. About 100 were for suffixes in non-English characters, including Chinese, Arabic and Thai.

From a technical standpoint, the names let Internet-connected computers know where to send email and locate websites. But they've come to mean much more. For Amazon.com Inc., for instance, the domain name is the heart of the company, not just an address.

A new suffix could be used to identify sites that have a certain level of security protection. It could be used to create online neighborhoods of businesses affiliated with a geographic area or an industry. French cosmetics giant L'Oreal, for instance, proposed ".beauty" as a home for beauty products and general information on personal beauty.

"The Internet is about to change forever," ICANN CEO Rod Beckstrom declared. "We're standing at the cusp of a new era of online innovation, innovation that means new businesses, new marketing tools, new jobs, new ways to link communities and share information."

But there's a question of how useful the new names will be. Alternatives to ".com" introduced over the past decade have had mixed success. These days, Internet users often find websites not by typing in the address but by using a search engine. And with mobile devices getting more popular, people are using apps to bypass Web browsers entirely.

Many businesses worry that they'll have to police the Internet for addresses that misuse their brands, in many cases paying to register names simply to keep them away from others. It was one thing having some 300 suffixes; it's another to have thousands.

"One thing that's going to occur is a lot of money is going to get sucked out of the ecosystem," said Lauren Weinstein, co-founder of People For Internet Responsibility and a strong critic of ICANN. "The cost is billions and billions of dollars with no value returned to people and an enormous capacity for confusion."

One worry is that an expansion will mean more addresses available to scam artists who use similar-sounding names such as "Amazom" rather than "Amazon" to trick people into giving passwords and credit card information.

The public now has 60 days to comment on the proposals. There's also a seven-month window for filing objections, including claims of trademark violation.

Of the 1,930 proposals, 1,179 were unique and 751 were for 230 different suffixes. ICANN will hold an auction if competing bidders cannot reach a compromise. Most of the duplicate bids were for generic names, though the Guardian newspaper and The Guardian Life Insurance Co. both sought ".guardian."

Bidders had to pay $185,000 per proposal. If approved, each suffix would cost at least $25,000 a year to maintain, with a 10-year commitment required. By comparison, a personal address with a common suffix such as ".com" usually costs less than $10 a year.

ICANN has received some $350 million in application fees. The money will be used to set up the system, review applications and make sure parties do what they have promised once the suffix is operational. Some of the money will be set aside to cover potential lawsuits from unsuccessful applicants and others.

Some of the proposals are for suffixes to be reserved for in-house use. Yahoo Inc. and Microsoft Corp., for instance, plan to restrict ".yahoo and ".microsoft" to their sites or affiliates, while keeping their current names under ".com." If Google Inc. wins its bid for ".search," the search leader won't let rivals use it.

But there are hundreds of proposals for generic names that the public would be able to buy names under   for $10 or thousands depending on the suffix. Some are coming from entrepreneurs or businesses that specialize in domain names.

Others are from big technology companies. That means Google, for instance, could charge its fiercest rivals for rights to "Microsoft.love," ''Facebook.love" and "Apple.love." Google declined comment.

Amazon has bids for 76 names, many related to businesses the online bookseller now dominates or might want to. Besides ".book" and ".author," Amazon is seeking ".joy."

Amazon indicated in its applications that it would initially use those names for only a limited number of its own sites, though the company was silent on longer-term plans. Amazon declined further comment.

Stephen Ewart, marketing manager of Names.co.uk, a domain name reseller that stands to gain from registrations under new suffixes, says there's a danger with companies such as Amazon controlling such common terms.

"Once you own these spaces, you can write your own terms and conditions," he says. "Big brands can decide who can be there and decide what can be put in that space. It's a bit cynical to think someone can be locked out of joy."

Amazon and Google are among 13 bidders for ".app." Both companies operate stores for distributing apps for mobile devices running Google's Android system. That could shut out Apple Inc. and its rival iPhone and iPad devices.

While Google applied for 101 suffixes, Apple sought only one, ".apple." EBay Inc. and Facebook Inc. didn't propose for any. It was Amazon that

bid for ".like"   the button on Facebook that lets users recommend links
and brands to friends.

Apple Declares Ping A Failure

Surprising absolutely no one, it seems that Apple's social music network
Ping doesn't have the userbase that it needs in order to push onward.
Therefore   according to AllThingsD   the company will officially kill
Ping in the next official iTunes release.

Apple officially unveiled Ping on September 1, 2010 as a major feature of
the then-brand-new iTunes 10. The pseudo social network was designed as a
way for fans to keep track of the comings and goings of their favorite
music makers, while sharing the tunes they love with other Ping users. At
first, music lovers seemed enthusiastic about Ping, and in order to drum
up support, the company had several high-profile artists   including Lady
Gaga and Chris Martin of Coldplay   hop on board early.

Unfortunately, nothing could save Ping from eventually being a "me too"
social network, with nearly all of its features easily replicated on
already established social hotspots. Now that Apple is officially
partnered up with both Facebook and Twitter, there seems to be no room in
the company's portfolio to maintain it.

If you're a devote Ping user, you may take some comfort in the fact that
the next major iTunes update probably won't take place until this coming
fall, so you'll have at least a few more months to say goodbye.

Visual Studio Express 2012 for Windows Desktop

With Visual Studio 2012, we strive to provide the best development
experience across all Microsoft platforms. This includes enabling
developers to bring to life the richness of Windows desktop applications
- whether you are learning to build your first app or whether you ve been
developing on Microsoft platforms for many years.

A few weeks ago, we shared our plans for the Express editions of Visual
Studio 2012. As we've worked to deliver the best experience with Visual
Studio for our platforms with Windows 8, Windows Phone, and for Web and
Windows Azure, we heard from our community that developers want to have
for Windows desktop development the same great experience and access to
the latest Visual Studio 2012 features at the Express level.

Today, I m happy to announce that we will add Visual Studio Express 2012
for Windows Desktop to the Visual Studio 2012 family. This will bring to
the Visual Studio Express family significant new capabilities that we ve
made available in Visual Studio 2012 for building great desktop
applications.

Adhering to the core principles we ve set for our Express products, Visual
Studio Express 2012 for Windows Desktop will provide a simple, end-to-end
development experience for developing Windows desktop applications
targeted to run on all versions of Windows supported by Visual Studio
2012. With this new Express edition, developers will be able to use C++,

C#, or Visual Basic to create Windows desktop and console applications. Developers will also get access to new advances available across the Express family in Visual Studio 2012, such as the latest compilers and programming language tools, integrated unit testing, and the ability for small development teams to collaborate via Team Explorer and TFS Express.

Planned for release in the fall, Visual Studio Express 2012 for Windows Desktop will provide a great learning environment for students and other new developers getting started. It will enable a friction-free solution for existing developers to bring their desktop apps forward with the latest toolsets. And it will enable developers working on open source applications to target existing and previous versions of Windows.

Desktop development has always been a core part of Windows. With Visual Studio 2012, we continue to extend those desktop development capabilities and provide a great development experience for developers building desktop applications.

'US Ignite' Will Create Ultra-Fast Experimental Broadband Networks

The White House has launched a public-private partnership aiming to build ultra high-speed broadband networks in communities around the U.S. Unveiled Thursday, it's called US Ignite.

The networks will be opened up to developers for use as a development sandbox for turning out new applications in key sectors of the economy.

"This network will become a test-bed for designing and deploying next-generation applications to support national priorities areas such as education, healthcare, energy, and advanced manufacturing," reads the White House's press release. "US Ignite will challenge students, startups, and industry leaders to create a new generation of applications and services that meet the needs of local communities while creating a broad range of job and investment opportunities."

US Ignite will bring together corporations, non-profits and universities to build programmable broadband networks capable of achieving speeds of up to 1 gigabit per second, which the White House claims is "100 times faster than today s Internet."

The networks are expected to be rolled out in more than 25 cities over the next five to six years. Individual developers, startups and major corporations alike will be welcomed to experiment with the networks.

As examples of the networks' potential to spur innovation and growth, US Ignite is pointing to pilot cities such as Chattanooga, Tenn., where startups have developed "everything from improved transportation to disaster response to a smart energy-grid" using the cities' high-speed broadband network, as seen in the video embedded above.

The NSF is committing $20 million to the development of the new networks. It's also co-hosting a $500,000 competition along with Mozilla Foundation and the Department of Energy for coders developing high-speed apps using the new networks.

 Build the next generation Internet, and they will come, said Bob Metcalfe, who co-invented Ethernet. But not without encouragement and a

willingness to be surprised. In the 1970s, many doubted there were uses for even 50-kilobit-per-second Internet. But soon application explorers came up with remote login, file transfer, and email. Pioneers have since found new worlds in telephony, television, publishing, commerce and social interactivity. Today, while investing in gigabit generations of Internet, we are again sending out our application explorers.

Windows 8 Tablets Will Reportedly Cost More Than iPads

Microsoft may have been making "tablet PCs" since 2001, or at least providing support in Windows for hardware manufacturers who wanted to do so. Just like how the iPod blew open the "MP3 player" market, though, it was the iPad that made tablets a Thing in 2010, and send hardware vendors like HP and Asus scrambling to make their own versions.

Microsoft wants Windows 8 to give these vendors an edge. It sports a tablet-friendly "Metro" interface, a market intended to rival the App Store, and compatibility with Microsoft Office. Some Windows 8 tablets (the ones powered by Intel processors) will even be able to run other "desktop" apps - the ones designed for old versions of Windows.

The bad news? A new report by Theo Valich of VR-Zone suggests that Windows 8 tablets may be priced between $549 and a whopping $899. There may be at least one tablet that costs less, however, for an unusual reason:

Google gives away its competing Android operating system for free to tablet makers, because its business model is making money from ads. (You don't even need Google's permission to use the open-source version of Android, although it doesn't come with the Google apps or Google Play store.) Microsoft, on the other hand, has always made money from charging hardware vendors a license fee for Windows. And according to Valich, that license fee is going to be in the neighborhood of $85, or nearly a fourth of the cost of last year's iPad 2.

Apple's monopolistic control of the world's highest-quality tablet components means Windows OEMs (original equipment manufacturers) will have to fight with Android tablet makers for what's left, which - since it'd be cheaper - may help drive costs down a bit. But even though Microsoft charges some Android hardware makers a euphemistically-termed license fee for Android (basically money to stave off a patent lawsuit), that fee is reportedly in the neighborhood of $5, rather than $85. And while Apple bears the cost of developing its own iOS operating system, Horace Dediu of Asymco estimates Apple's R&D costs at only about $11 per iPhone.

Perhaps seeking to mimic Apple's strategy of controlling both hardware and software on its own devices -- or Microsoft's entertainment division's similar strategy, with the Xbox 360 game console -- Microsoft is reportedly planning to unveil its own tablet on Monday. The software giant obviously won't have to pay itself license fees, which may mean a more cost-competitive Windows tablet. If it's too cost-competitive, however, it may cause frustration for Microsoft's hardware partners, who would be competing with their own supplier.

New Mac OS in July Has Social-Network Integration

Next month, Apple will release its new operating system for Mac computers.

Dubbed Mountain Lion, Mac OS X 10.8 will cost $19.99 $10 cheaper than what the current system, Lion, costs. Those buying Mac computers starting on Monday will get the upgrade for free when it's available.

Apple Inc. already demonstrated many of the Mountain Lion features in February. The new software narrows the gap between the PC and phone software packages, making Mac personal computers work more like iPhones.

It's similar to what Microsoft Corp. is doing with its forthcoming Windows 8 system. That system, expected this fall, will bring the look and user interface of Windows Phone to PCs.

   The new software will have better integration with social networks such as Facebook Inc.'s. It will have built-in features to facilitate sharing on Facebook, Twitter, Flickr and other services. For instance, you'll get notifications when you get a message or a mention in a Facebook or Twitter post. You need to sign in only once, and you can share directly from other apps you are using.

   Power Nap keeps your Mac updated even while it's in power-saving "sleep" mode. It will get your email messages, back up your files and download software updates automatically. It will work with recent MacBook Air computers and the higher-end MacBook Pro model, the one with the sharper, "Retina" display.

   A new Messages app, copied from Apple's mobile operating system, will replace iChat. It will allow you to send messages to other Apple users, whether that person is on a Mac or an Apple mobile device.

   Mountain Lion will be integrated with iCloud, the new Internet storage service designed for the mobile devices.

   The software will bring dictation to Macs, essentially allowing the computer to type as you talk.

   Game Center will store high game scores and help users find opponents on both Macs and Apple mobile devices.

Apple said the Facebook integration features won't be available right away. The company did not say exactly when in July the Mountain Lion software will be available, nor did it say when the Facebook features will be ready.

Upgrades will be available as a download through Apple's Mac App Store. Those upgrading must already have either the Lion or Snow Leopard operating systems on their Macs.

                    Malware Installed on Travelers' Laptops

Recent analysis from the FBI and other government agencies demonstrates that malicious actors are targeting travelers abroad through pop-up windows while establishing an Internet connection in their hotel rooms.

Recently, there have been instances of travelers' laptops being infected with malicious software while using hotel Internet connections. In these instances, the traveler was attempting to setup the hotel room Internet connection and was presented with a pop-up window notifying the user to update a widely-used software product. If the user clicked to accept and install the update, malicious software was installed on the laptop. The pop-up window appeared to be offering a routine update to a legitimate software product for which updates are frequently available.

The FBI recommends that all government, private industry, and academic personnel who travel abroad take extra caution before updating software products on their hotel Internet connection. Checking the author or digital certificate of any prompted update to see if it corresponds to the software vendor may reveal an attempted attack. The FBI also recommends that travelers perform software updates on laptops immediately before traveling, and that they download software updates directly from the software vendorâ s Web site if updates are necessary while abroad.

Anyone who believes they have been a target of this type of attack should immediately contact their local FBI office, and promptly report it to the IC3's website at www.IC3.gov <http://www.ic3.gov/>. The IC3's complaint database links complaints together to refer them to the appropriate law enforcement agency for case consideration. The complaint information is also used to identify emerging trends and patterns.

Indonesian Man Sentenced to Prison for Making Athiest Comments on Facebook

Given that the phenomenon of Facebook and social media are relatively new, it's somewhat excusable for courts of law to be unsure how to proceed with regard to matters involving human interaction on the site. That said, there are few supporting an Indonesian court's latest act: A 30-year-old man was sentenced to 30 months of prison and a $10,600 fine for posting pro-atheist and anti-Islam comments on Facebook.

Alexander Aan was charged with posting cartoons of the prophet Mohammed to an atheist Facebook group and for making statements including, "If God exists, then why do bad things happen?" The comments Aan made wound up inciting an angry mob to seek him out and severely beat him. Aan was arrested by police for his own protection.

Since then, Aan has been charged and convincted of "disseminating information aimed at inciting religious hatred or hostility." Amnesty International is calling for Aan's release, branding his conviction "a serious setback for freedom of expression in Indonesia, and [a violation of] Indonesia's obligations under international law."

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